

# PlayMakers mixes it up with Pulitzer-winners

BY PHILLIP CROOK  
STAFF WRITER

In keeping with its mission to expand the breadth of theater-going experiences in Chapel Hill, PlayMakers Repertory Company is trying something new. The company will unveil two Pulitzer Prize-winning plays in preview performances this weekend. The shows officially premiere on Feb. 2 as a rotating repertoire until the end of the month. On alternating days, audiences will have an opportunity to expe-

rience the plays in tandem, as the themes of faith and truth intertwine and relate across both pieces. "Doubt: A Parable" by John Patrick Shanley begins at 8 p.m. Saturday and depicts an unraveling moral conflict within a Bronx Catholic school in 1964. Centering on the relationship between the progressive parish leader, Father Flynn, and the school's first black student, this Tony Award-winning play poses questions about the nature of religion and race relations in the U.S. "The play is practically snatched

out of recent headlines," Producing Artistic Director Joseph Haj said. The other play, "Topdog/Underdog" by Suzan-Lori Parks, will preview at 8 p.m. Sunday. Written in 2004, "Doubt" quickly became a praised and successful work on and off Broadway because of its questioning nature, taking audiences through challenging and often uncomfortable issues. "At first glance, 'Doubt' is a play about two nuns and a priest that seems a far cry from the story of two African-American brothers

### ATTEND THE PRODUCTIONS

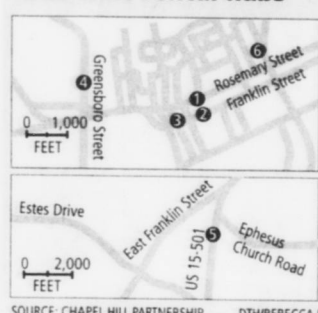
**Time:** Various times, Saturday through Feb. 29  
**Location:** Paul Green Theatre  
**Info:** www.playmakersrep.org

living in squalor," said Drew Barr, director of "Doubt." "What becomes interesting upon consideration is that both plays speak to the American experience. They look back at history to understand the struggles of people living today." Haj said the key to the rotating repertoire's appeal is that the plays present similar questions and themes but through different theatrical palettes. However, playing host to two productions at once has its challenges. The plays share a common stage, on which set pieces draw from the same elements but are arranged differently for each show. The separate casts worked simultaneously in different rehearsal rooms, while sharing technical and costume designers. Jeff Cornell, an assistant professor of dramatic art performing as Father

Flynn, said the dual productions provided for a unique preparation process. During a normal rehearsal schedule, the actors work within a compact period of time in which there is one focus. But in readying "Doubt," half of PlayMakers' attention went to "Topdog/Underdog." "Overall, it was a positive experience because it added extra time to steep in the material," Cornell said. But Cornell's preparation had a particularly unique challenge. "I had to grow my nails out for the part," he said. "Audiences may not see the reason why, but it's just one of the ways Shanley keeps you off balance."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

### Area bike rental hubs



- 1 Skylight Exchange / Nightlight  
405 1/2 W. Rosemary St.
- 2 3 Cups coffee shop  
431 W. Franklin St.
- 3 Back Alley Bikes  
108 N. Graham St.
- 4 Townsend Bertram & Co. Adventure Outfitters  
200 N. Greensboro St.
- 5 Owen's 501 Diner  
1500 Fordham Blvd.
- 6 Chapel Hill Town Hall  
405 MLK Jr. Blvd.  
OPENS TODAY

SOURCE: CHAPEL HILL PARTNERSHIP DTH/REBECCA ROLFE

### BLUE BIKES

Urban Bikes as the final victory for making Chapel Hill more bike-friendly. "The real goal is creating a culture where residents and motorists respect those who bike regularly and also tolerate them on the road," he said. "So while I wholeheartedly endorse (Blue Urban Bikes), I don't

even think it's close to the end of the line," Czajkowski said. Future plans for the program include a location at the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service and Johnny Sporting Goods in Carrboro. Residents can contact any hub for more information on the program and how to become a member.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

## National and World News

### FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

#### Republicans hold pre-Fla. debate

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)** — For Republican presidential contenders John McCain and Mitt Romney, Thursday's debate presented a chance to step out smartly in the struggle for victory in next week's Florida primary. For Rudy Giuliani and Mike Huckabee, it represented perhaps a last, best hope to shake up a statewide — and national — campaign that appears to be slowly leaving them behind. Libertarian-leaning Rep. Ron Paul also had a spot on the stage for the prime-time debate.

#### Kucinich Ends Presidential Bid

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Democrat Dennis Kucinich is abandoning his second, long-shot bid for the White House as he fights to hold onto his other job — U.S. congressman. Kucinich has received little support in his presidential bid; he got 1 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary and was shut out in the Iowa caucuses. He did have a devoted following. Kucinich said he will not endorse another Democrat in the primary.

#### U.S. willing to send combat troops to help Pakistan fight insurgency

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)** — The Bush administration is willing to send a small number of U.S. combat troops to Pakistan to help fight the insurgency there if Pakistan asks for such help, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday. Gates said the Pakistani government has not requested any additional assistance in the weeks since al-Qaida and affiliated extremists have intensified their fighting inside Pakistan. And he stressed that the United States would respect the Pakistanis' judgment on the utility of

American military assistance. He noted the Dec. 27 assassination of former prime minister and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and subsequent fears of increased unrest. The United States has about 28,000 troops in neighboring Afghanistan, and Gates earlier this month ordered another 3,200 to go this spring to train Afghan forces and to help fight Taliban insurgents. U.S. intelligence believes al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is on the Pakistani side of the border with Afghanistan.

#### Brazil fights rain forest clearing

**SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)** — Brazil will try to combat deforestation in the Amazon by sending extra federal police and environmental agents to 36 cities and towns where illegal rain forest clearing jumped dramatically last year, officials said Thursday. The clearing of Brazil's Amazon rain forest jumped in the final months of 2007, spurred by heavy market demand for corn, soy and cattle. The 36 areas being targeted registered the highest rates of deforestation, environmental officials said.

#### Economic relief package forged

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)** — With unprecedented speed and cooperation, Congress and the White House forged a deal Thursday to begin rushing tax rebates of \$600 to \$1,200 to most tax filers by spring, hoping they will spend it just as quickly to jolt the ailing economy. The bill will go straight to the House floor next week, where some Democrats hope to add elements such as extending unemployment benefits for workers whose benefits have run out. If approved quickly, the first rebate payments could begin going out in May.

### AIR GUITAR

FROM PAGE 3

CUAB's Music Committee Chairman Tom Allin and The Daily Tar Heel's Diversions Editor Bryan Reed. "They're judging the participants on technical merit, stage presence and something called airness — the most obscure and if not the most important criteria," Kao said. Airness is the level of how well the contestant imitates the visuals of playing a guitar. The more accurate the performance is, the more airness the contestant receives. Sophomore Brady McReynolds said he decided to compete after seeing "Air Guitar Nation." "My friends took me to see the video the other week, and I thought it was kind of fun," he said. "So I decided to compete even though I'm kind of an air guitar virgin." McReynolds, who will portray "Mystery Meat" in the championship, said he has watched many YouTube videos and made a playlist of songs on iTunes to prepare for the competition. "I've been working on thumbing through the songs, but I'm trying to avoid carpal tunnel," he said. "I made a Facebook event to have my friends come see me. I'm hoping for a good turnout." The competitors, battling for a \$100 Visa gift card, will have to make it through the first round before making it into the three-person showdown. "In round one contestants play a 60-second excerpt of a song of their choice, and if they make it to round two, they must play and improvise a secret 60-second song," Kao said. Freshman Michael Johnston, who is on CUAB's Fun Committee, plans to perform Metallica's "Seek and Destroy" in round one. "To prepare I've watched Metallica on YouTube," he said. "I'll practice a routine — otherwise I'll be winging it." McReynolds said he plans to make his performance as realistic as possible. "I plan on whipping out my standard air Fender with the oxygen tremolo modification for this championship," McReynolds said. "And I plan on buying a real guitar soon."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

**ATTEND THE COMPETITION**  
**Time:** 8 p.m. today  
**Location:** Gerrard Hall  
**Info:** www.unc.edu/cuab

### GRASS-FED BEEF

FROM PAGE 3

ers made from grass-fed cows are healthier than conventional ones. "Cows are supposed to eat grass. It's their natural diet," he said. A majority of U.S. cows are fed corn and raised in crowded conditions, which makes them more susceptible to disease, Hamilton said. Research has also shown that meat from grass-fed animals contains more omega-3 fatty acids, more beta-carotene and less total fat than conventional meat. "The good stuff, the nutritional stuff is in there," Robinette said. But Gary Gregory, a beef cattle research technician at N.C. State University, said some people dislike the taste of grass-fed beef. "It's going to be a tad tougher," he said, attributing the meat's texture to its lower fat content. "It all comes down to preference as far as what people want to eat." Still, the burgers appear to be popular with students, said Preston Cravey, a sous chef with Carolina Dining Services. "We get a lot of good comments about the grass-fed," Cravey said. Grass-fed beef has also caught on at Duke University, which began selling Harris Acres meat two years ago. The school now purchases about 20 percent of its beef from the farm. Price said that as long as the grass-fed burgers are available, she will keep buying them. "I don't think I'll get a regular hamburger again," she said.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

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**Nominations Requested for Chancellor's AWARDS**

*For excellence in Student Activities & Leadership*  
Nominations are encouraged from all members of the University Community

<b>SENIOR AWARDS</b>	<b>PRIMARY AREA OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>
Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award Irene F. Lee Award Walter S. Spearman Award Frank Porter Graham Award	Humanitarian contribution (one male, one female) Character, scholarship, leadership (female) Character, scholarship, leadership (male) Improving quality of life of the University community through principles of equality, dignity and peace
George Moses Horton Award E. Eugene Jackson Award	Leadership, initiative, creativity in multicultural education programs Member of the graduating class whose leadership and selfless dedication have strengthened the class pride and University loyalty, enriching the lives of seniors, and made the most significant contribution to the University
John Johnston Parker, Jr. Medal J. Maryon Saunders Award	Student self-governance Recognizes the greatest contribution to the preservation and enhancement of the feeling of loyalty and goodwill
Ferebee Taylor Award	Recognizes the principle of honor as one of the University's most hallowed ideals
<b>JUNIOR AWARDS</b>	<b>PRIMARY AREA OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>
Jane Craige Gray Memorial Award Ernest L. Mackie Award	Character, scholarship, leadership (female) Character, scholarship, leadership (male)
<b>GRADUATE &amp; PROFESSIONAL AWARD</b>	<b>PRIMARY AREA OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>
Boka W. Hadzija Award	Awarded to the graduate/professional student who has been judged most outstanding in character, scholarship and leadership
<b>OTHER AWARDS</b>	<b>PRIMARY AREA OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>
Ernest H. Abernethy Award Cornelius O. Cathey Award	Student publications Recognizes the greatest contribution to the quality of campus life or the efficacy of University programs for students through sustained, conservative participation in established programs, or through creative, persistent effort in development of new programs
Gladys & Albert Coates Award	Given to a member of the Student Congress judged most outstanding on a criteria of statesmanship, commitment and constructive involvement in issues affecting the quality of the University community
Robert B. House Distinguished Service Award International Leadership Award	Unselfish commitment, through services to the University and to the surrounding area The Class of 1938 Joseph F. Patterson, Jr. and Alice M. Patterson International Leadership Award for international awareness and understanding
Jim Tatum Memorial Award James O. Cansler Service Award	Athletics plus co-curricular activities Presented to a junior or senior whose faith has inspired outstanding service to the needs of humanity, locally or abroad

Nominations Due  
Nomination Forms Available Online  
For More Information Contact

**Friday, February 8, 2008, 5PM**  
www.unc.edu/chancellorsawards  
Tammy Lambert, 966.3128